

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-14 remain in the application. All of the claims have been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, an amendment to eliminate numeric references is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability. Independent claims 1 and 9 also have been amended to define the invention more clearly. Additionally, allowable claim 12 has been rewritten as an independent claim with all the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims.

Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cairns et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,343,523. The Examiner provided very helpful information to identify portions of the Cairns et al. reference that were being relied upon to support the rejection under 35 USC 102(b). Additionally, the Examiner provided very helpful annotated copies of figures from Cairns et al..

The Examiner correctly notes that the openings 55 in FIG. 1 of Cairns et al. show chamfers at two opposed surfaces of each opening. The chamfers are on a side of the opening opposite the side of the cavity that has the resiliently deflectable lock. Hence, the Examiner concluded that the Cairns et al. reference meets the limitations of the invention set forth in the original claims.

The chamfered surfaces identified by the Examiner in the Office Action exist only at the extreme front end of the housing, and in a portion of the housing that corresponds to the tab insertion opening of the subject application. In this regard,

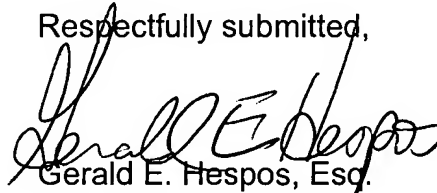
FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing only the tab insertion openings that communicate with the cavities. FIG. 5 of Cairns et al., however, is a rear view and shows a substantially rectangular opening to the housing. The chamfered surfaces identified by the Examiner are shown in FIG. 6. FIG. 6 is a cross section taken from a position forward of the resilient locks. The Examiner will note that the chamfered sections that appear at the extreme front ends of the housing are not shown in cross section. Rather, the chamfers are the areas of the housing identified by the numeral 52 in FIG. 4. With reference to FIG. 2, the Examiner will note that the terminal fitting of Cairns et al. is rearward of these chamfered sections. This different positioning amounts to a world of difference in terms of the performance of the housing. In particular, the chamfer in the tab insertion opening at the front end of the Cairns et al. housing would have absolutely no effect on shaking of the terminal fitting.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the cavity as being rearward of the tab insertion opening, and to define the guiding surface as being in the cavity and hence rearward of the tab insertion opening. It is believed that this amended to claim 1 distinguishes claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7 from Cairns et al. Similarly, claim 9 has been amended to define the chamfered longitudinal corner as being rearward of the front end of the housing and in a location opposed to the resiliently deformable lock. In contrast, the chamfered region of Cairns et al. is clearly adjacent the front of the housing and well forward of the resiliently deflectable lock. Thus, it is submitted that the Cairns et al. reference neither teaches nor suggest the invention defined by claims 1-11, 13 and 14.

The applicants are pleased to note that claim 12 was identified as being directed to patentable subject matter. Claim 12 has been amended into independent form with all the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. As a result, it is believed that claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the preceding amendments in remarks, it is submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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